

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 059098
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 059098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - MARCH 15, 1977

THE FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S ARE EXCERPTED FROM THE
MARCH 15 DEPARTMENT PRSS BRIEFING:

Q. ON ZAIRE

A. O.K.

A. O.K.

Q. -- CAN YOU TELL US IF WHAT IS BEING SENT TO ZAIRE
IS THE EXTENT OF THEIR REQUEST OR IF THERE ARE ADDITIONAL
ITEMS THAT ARE BEING WITHHELD?

A. I UNDERSTAND THIS IS THE EXTENT OF THEIR REQUEST AND,
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PAGE 02 STATE 059098

AS YOU NOTE, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DID ANNOUNCE THAT
ONE AIRCRAFT LOAD, A DC-8 WITH A VARIETY OF EQUIPMENT:
MEDICINES, BACK-PACKS, PARACHUTES, COMMUNICATIONS
EQUIPMENT, FUEL BLADDERS --

Q. START AGAIN. GO A LITTLE SLOWER.

Q. WAIT, WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY OF THIS.

A. O.K.

Q. IT'S ON THE WIRES.

A. MEDICINES, BACK-PACKS, PARACHUTES, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, FUEL BLADDERS -- COLLAPSIBLE JOBS.

Q. BLADDERS?

A. BLADDERS, YES.

Q. WHAT'S A BLADDER?

A. A COLLAPSIBLE RUBBER ARRANGEMENT --

Q. I'D RATHER NOT KNOW.

A. -- THAT YOU CAN PUT FUEL INTO, PUMP FUEL INTO IT FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE. CLOTHING --

Q. IS THAT FOR TRUCKS?

A. IT COULD BE FOR TRUCKS. THEY RUN ABOUT 500 GALLONS-- I MIGHT BE CORRECTED ON THAT; 500 TO A THOUSAND GALLONS.

COMBAT RATIONS. I MENTIONED CLOTHING.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 059098

ONE AIRCRAFT DEPARTED TODAY. THERE WILL BE ANOTHER AIRCRAFT LOAD INCLUDING SPARE PARTS FOR C-130 AIRCRAFT GOING LATER THIS WEEK.

Q. UNDER THE SAME ARRANGEMENTS, A CHARTERED AIRPLANE, OR IS IT --

A. I UNDERSTAND IT IS A CHARTER, YES.

Q. BY THE WAY, YOU SAID SPARE PARTS FOR WHAT?

A. C-130 TYPE AIRCRAFT. THE ZAIRIANS HAVE C-130S. THESE ARE SPARES.

Q. DO YOU KNOW THE DOLLAR VALUE FOR THESE?

A. THE DOLLAR VALUE FOR TODAY WAS UNDER A HALF MILLION

DOLLARS. FOR THE FLIGHT LATER THIS WEEK IT'S SOMETHING OVER THAT, BUT I DON'T HAVE A PRECISE FIGURE.

Q. IT TOTALS OUT TO A LITTLE BIT ABOVE A MILLION DOLLARS.

A. YES, THAT WOULD BE ABOUT RIGHT.

Q. -- AGAIN, THE SECOND LOAD GOING ALSO FROM DOVER?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW IT'S FROM DOVER, YES.

Q. AND UNDER THE SAME SEABOARD CHARTER?

A. I CAN'T BE CERTAIN OF THAT. LET ME CHECK ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q. WELL, MORE INTERESTING THAN THAT TO ME IS WHY IT IS BEING SENT UNDER A COMMERCIAL CHARTER. WHY NOT IN UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 059098

STRAIGHTAWAY U.S. MILITARY PLANES?

A. WHY DON'T YOU CHECK WITH DOD ON THAT?

Q. I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE MORE OF A DIPLOMATIC CONSIDERATION THAT A PENTAGON ONE.

A. I'M COMPLETELY UNINFORMED AS TO THE RATIONALE FOR THAT

IT COULD BE A COST FACTOR, TOO.

Q. WELL, I DON'T THINK IT'S A COST FACTOR. I WONDER IF YOU'RE NOT A LITTLE SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT SHIPPING MILITARY SUPPLIES INTO AFRICA.

A. NO, I DON'T THINK SO AT ALL; BUT PERHAPS THE PENTAGON COULD EXPLAIN WHY A CHARTER ARRANGEMENT WAS PREFERABLE.

Q. COULD WE GO BACK TO SQUARE 1? WHY IS THIS BEING SENT?

A. AT THE REQUEST OF THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES SEND EVERYTHING THAT'S REQUESTED BY A GOVERNMENT? (LAUGHTER) DO YOU HAVE A FURTHER EXPLANATION?

A. I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION.

Q. WELL, WHY IS THE --

A. THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. I UNDERSTAND.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 059098

A. THIS IS THE MATERIEL THAT THEY REQUESTED.

Q. FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

A. FOR THEIR USE WITH REGARD TO THE INCURSIONS IN SHABA.

Q. DO WE KNOW WHO'S MAKING THE INCURSIONS OR KNOW WHAT THEY'RE FIGHTING AGAINST?

A. NO. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT WE'VE SAID YESTERDAY ON THAT. OUR INFORMATION IS SIMPLY NOT SUCH THAT WE CAN MAKE ANY PRECISE IDENTIFICATION OR DESCRIBE IT IN ANY WAY OTHER THAN I HAVE YESTERDAY.

Q. ARE WE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT THERE HAS IN FACT BEEN AN INVASION AND THERE HAS IN FACT BEEN FIGHTING? BECAUSE THERE ARE REPORTS QUOTING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN EUROPE THAT EVERYTHING IS VERY CALM AND PEACEFUL THERE AND THAT THOSE ARE SIMPLY KATANGAN SETTLERS.

A. KATANGAN SETTLERS.

Q. WELL, THAT'S ONE SOURCE ON THAT.

Q. ARE WE SURE, IN FACT, THAT THERE HAS BEEN FIGHTING THERE?

A. WE'RE USING THE TERM OF "INVADING FORCE." I HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE.

Q. INVADING FORCE OF WHAT NUMBER?

A. AS I SAID YESTERDAY AND ON FRIDAY, THE REPORTS ARE NOT COMPLETE ENOUGH OR VERIFIED SUFFICIENTLY TO GIVE A NUMBER OR PRECISION AS TO THE PROVENANCE OR NATIONALITY OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED OR TYPE OF PEOPLE INVOLVED --
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 059098

EXCEPT, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, THE ONE REPORT, THE KATANGAN GENDARMERIE PERSONNEL WHO HAD CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY; AND THAT'S IN THE REALM OF A REPORT ALSO.

Q. EXCUSE ME. I JUST WANT TO GO BACK TO SQUARE 1 ON THIS.

A. YOU'RE ALREADY BACK IN SQUARE 1.

Q. RIGHT. WELL, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN TAKE OFF FROM SQUARE 1. (LAUGHTER).

IS IT THE PRACTICE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO MEET REQUESTS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS FOR ARMED FORCES MATERIAL WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THE PURPOSE IS FOR WHICH THIS MATERIAL WILL BE USED, WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THE ACTION IS THAT IS REQUIRED BUT HAS STIMULATED THE REQUEST WITHOUT KNOWING THE FORCES INVOLVED, WITHOUT KNOWING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE FORCES?

A. OUR INFORMATION IS SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT US TO MAKE A FAVORABLE JUDGMENT WITH REGARD TO GRANTING THE REQUEST OF THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT. I'M NOT GOING TO EXPAND THIS CASE TO PROVIDE A DICTUM FOR ALL OTHER POSSIBLE SITUATIONS WHERE A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT MAKES REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WE DO HAVE A MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE.

Q. LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING ELSE.

Q. WAIT A MINUTE. YOU SAY YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO MAKE A JUDGMENT.

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. YOU DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION WHERE THEY'RE COMING UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 059098

FROM; YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MANY THEY ARE; YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR NATIONALITY IS.

WHAT IS THE INFORMATION THAT'S SUFFICIENT TO MAKE THIS POLITICAL JUDGMENT TO INTERVENE IN AFRICA AGAIN?

A. IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF INTERVENING IN AFRICA AGAIN. THOSE ARE YOUR WORDS, NOT MINE.

Q. ALL RIGHT; WELL THEN, SCRAP THAT. WHAT IS THE SITUATION--

A. THIS IS A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT THAT HAS AN EXISTING MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND WE'RE ACCEDING TO THEIR REQUEST; AND WE'RE SATISFIED THAT, ON THE BASIS OF WHAT THEY HAVE TOLD US, THAT THERE'S A GENUINE NEED FOR IT AND WE'RE ACCEDING TO IT.

Q. WELL THEN, WE GO BACK TO SQUARE 1. IS ANY FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE SUFFICIENT-

A. NO. I'M NOT GOING TO EXPAND THAT TO PROVIDE A BLANKET PRINCIPLE EXTENDING TO ALL GOVERNMENTS.

Q. ALL RIGHT. YOU SAID YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION

TO MAKE A JUDGMENT, AND THE ONLY INFORMATION YOU'VE PROVIDED IS THAT IT'S A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT.

A. THE REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE, AND WE BELIEVE IT IS A JUSTIFIABLE REQUEST; BUT I'M TELLING YOU I CAN'T CONFIRM WHO THE INVADERS ARE OR WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM PRECISELY.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT THIS MORNING FROM KINSHASA DOMESTIC SERVICE. IT'S A TWO-PARAGRAPH STORY. IT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 059098

SAYS IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU MET IN ORDER -- IT WAS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE U.S., THE SOVIET UNION, CUBA, CHINA, NIGERIA -- AND IT SAY ALSO THAT THE FORCES WERE LED BY MERCENARIES FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC. DID HE TELL THAT TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TOO?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE TOLD OUR AMBASSADOR.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK WHAT HE TOLD THE U.S. AMBASSADOR?

A. I'LL CHECK, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GET A GOOD ANSWER. WE DON'T GO INTO THAT KIND OF --

Q. --HAVE ANY CUBANS BEEN IN ZAIRE?

A. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED, SOLID EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE.

Q. WHERE DOES THE MILLION DOLLARS COME FROM?

A. I'M SORRY?

Q. WHERE DOES THE MILLION DOLLARS COME FROM?

A. IT'S PART OF THE PRESENTLY EXISTING PROGRAM FOR FY'77. FOR INSTANCE, IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES, THE FIGURE IS 28 MILLION DOLLARS. FOR '76 IT WAS 9.525 MILLION DOLLARS.

Q. NINE POINT FIVE?

A. SO THIS IS PART OF THE DRAW-DOWN ON EITHER IN THE PIPELINE ACCELERATED, PLANNED IN THE PIPELINE OR PART OF THE GENERAL FMS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 059098

Q. SO NOTHING NEW THEN?

Q. IT INVOLVES NO SUPPLEMENTAL MONEY IS WHAT THE QUESTION WAS.

A. NO.

Q. NOTHING NEW?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT IS NOTHING NEW; NO.

Q. WILL THESE TWO PLANELOADS MEET IN THE ENTIRETY THE REQUESTS THAT WE RECEIVED FROM THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S THE ENTIRETY OR NOT; BUT THIS MEETS THEIR REQUEST FOR THE MOMENT, YES.

Q. WELL, YOU SAID EARLIER, IF MY NOTES ARE CORRECT, THAT "I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE EXTENT OF THE REQUEST." I UNDERSTAND --

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THIS IS ALL THEY HAVE REQUESTED FOR THE MOMENT; YES.

Q. YOU SAID HERE THAT YOU HAVE NO --

A. EXCUSE ME -- I'M SORRY.

Q. YOU SAID, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, "WE REPORTED THIS MORNING THAT THEY HAD MADE AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD REQUEST." COULD YOU RECHECK THE INFORMATION?

A. I'LL RECHECK IT, BUT I'LL JUST REPEAT WHAT I SAID. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THIS MEETS THEIR REQUEST FOR THE MOMENT.

YES?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 059098

Q. YOU CANNOT CONFIRM SOLID EVIDENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS THERE?

A. WELL, YOU KNOW, I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND THAT IN TERMS OF CUBANS, PRESENT OR NOT PRESENT. WE JUST ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THAT.

Q. IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE OF BACKING MATERIAL OR

OTHERWISE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS IT IS, IN LUANDA?

A. THE SAME ANSWER -- THAT NO SOLID EVIDENCE THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO MAKE THAT KIND OF JUDGMENT.

Q. HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE TERRITORY FROM WHICH THESE INCURSIONS HAVE BEEN MADE? IN WHOSE CONTROL IS IT?

A. WELL, IT'S PRETTY CLEAR IT HAS TO COME FROM SOMEWHERE ACROSS THAT BORDER.

Q. YES, BUT WHERE?

A. WELL, IT'S THE ANGOLAR BORDER, SO I THINK YOU HAVE TO ASSUME IT'S AN INCURSION BY AN INVADING FORCE, SO IT HAS TO COME --

Q. IS IT GOVERNMENT - HELD TERRITORY OR CONTESTED TERRITORY?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTUAL --

Q. BUT IT'S THIN. I GATHER IT'S SOMETHING LESS THAN COMPLETELY CONTROLLED BY THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT. YOU CAN'T SAY IT --

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 059098

A. I JUST DON'T HAVE A DESCRIPTION OF WHETHER IT'S CONTESTED, THINLY CONTROLLED, CONTROLLED COMPLETELY BY THE GOVERNMENT IN LUANDA OR NOT.

Q. THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT ISSUED A FORMAL STATEMENT DENYING ANY INCURSIONS FROM ANGOLA, SAYING THAT FIGHTING WAS SIMPLY AMONG KATANGESE FORCES INSIDE OF ZAIRE.

A. YES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I DON'T, NO.

Q. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ON AID IN SUPPORT OF ANY KIND TO THE FNLA AND TO THE --

Q. UNITA.

Q. -- TO UNITA.

A. THOSE ARE THE --

Q. AND THE CABINDA GROUP?

A. THE TWO GROUPS THAT LOST.

Q. YES.

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGE TO THE POLICY OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION.

Q. COULD YOU STATE THAT -- WHAT THAT WAS, PLEASE?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT WORDS, BUT I DO KNOW IN SUBSTANCE IT WAS THAT WE WERE NO LONGER PROVIDING UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 059098

ANY KIND OF ASSISTANCE TO THEM. I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HAS CHANGED.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON REPORTS THAT HOLDEN ROBERTO IS IN ANGOLA?

A. NOTHING ON THAT AT ALL.

Q. APART FROM ANY OUTSIDE INTEREST IN FOMENTING TROUBLE IN ZAIRE, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE AS AGAINST ANY BREAK AWAY?

A. WE HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER YOU AT THE MOMENT IN TERMS OF THE STATEMENT THAT YOU ARE SOLICITING. SO, OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT OUR RELATIONS ARE VERY CLOSE AND GOOD, I DON'T THINK I CAN OFFER YOU ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.

Q. WELL, LET ME TRY THIS THIS WAY.

--- -- -

IS THE UNITED STATES OPPOSED TO ANY SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN ZAIRE?
OVEMENT IN ZAIRE?

A. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE ANY KIND OF LARGE PRONOUNCEMENT ON THAT SUBJECT. I WOULD RATHER GET YOU A GOOD ANSWER AFTER THIS MEETING, IF I MAY, ON THAT.

Q. ALL RIGHT.

Q. DIDN'T IT USED TO BE U.S. POLICY TO OPPOSE A DISMEMBERMENT OF AN EXISTING STATE?

A. I THINK AS A GENERAL RULE THAT IS DEFINITELY SO. I UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 13 STATE 059098

WANT TO GET THE RIGHT LANGUAGE IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE RATHER THAN GIVE YOU SOMETHING OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD, IF I MAY. OKAY?

Q. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND?

A. ABOUT ALL I HAVE IS THAT THE TACTICAL SITUATION, THE MILITARY SITUATION, IN THE SOUTHWESTERN CORNER OF SHABA HAS CHANGED SLIGHTLY IN THAT WE HAVE HAD REPORTS, AND I STRESS REPORTS, OF ACTIVITY BEYOND THE THREE TOWNS WHICH WERE MENTIONED IN EARLIER BRIEFINGS, THE TOWNS OF KAPANGA, KISENGE AND DILOLO.

Q. COULD YOU SPELL THEM FOR US SO WE CAN IDENTIFY THEM?

A. YES. K-A-P-A-N-G-A. K-I-S-E-N-G-E. D-I-L-O-L-O.

Q. COULD YOU REPEAT THAT? I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

A. THAT IS ALL I HAVE; THAT THE ACTIVITY BEFORE WAS CONFINED TO THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THOSE TOWNS. WE NOW UNDERSTAND FROM REPORTS THAT IT HAS EXPANDED SLIGHTLY BEYOND THOSE THREE TOWNS AND I CAN'T GIVE YOU MORE PRECISION.

Q. YESTERDAY YOU MENTIONED ALSO A TOWN KOLWEZI. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT?

A. WHAT DID I SAY LAST WEEK ABOUT KOLWEZI? I HAVE SOMETHING ON THE AMERICANS IN KOLWEZI.

Q. THAT THEY MOVED.

Q. THERE WEREN'T ANY ACTIVITIES THERE.

--

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 14 STATE 059098

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE IS NO ACTIVITY THERE. I HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN THAT TOWN, HOWEVER.

I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY NINETY AMERICANS IN WESTERN SHABA. IT IS A LARGE AREA, AS YOU KNOW.

Q. HOW MANY?

A. NINETY.

EIGHTY-TWO OF THE NINETY ARE EMPLOYEES OF AN AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BASED AT KOLWEZI, K-O-L-W-E-Z-I, TO THE WEST OF LUMBUMBASHI.

Q. COULD YOU GIVE US THE NAME OF THE COMPANY?

A. YES. IT IS CONSTRUCTEUR INGA-SHABA.

Q. INGA.SHABA?

A. I-N-G-A - S-H-A-B-A.

INGA-SHABA, IT IS A SUBSIDIARY OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN
INTERNATIONAL COMPANY OF BOISE, IDA;O.

Q. MORRISON, DOUBLE "R"?

A. YES.

Q. KNUDSEN, K-N-U-D OR K-N-U-T?

A. AND THERE IS A HYPHEN.

Q. K-N-U-D.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 15 STATE 059098

Q. K-N-U-D-S-E-N.

Q OF WHERE?

A. IT IS OF BOISE AND THE COMPANY IS MAKING PLANS TO
EVACUATE THE DEPENDENTS OF THESE EMPLOYEES. THERE ARE
26 DEPENDENTS. SO, SUBTRACT 26 FROM 82 OF THE REMAINING
PEOPLE.

Q. HOW WOULD THEY BE BROUGHT OUT?

A. LET'S SEE. I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION AS TO HOW
THEY ARE COMING OUT, BUT A COMPANY OF THAT SIZE
WOULD PROBABLY HAVE AN AIRPLANE AT ITS DISPOSAL.
I AM SORRY?

Q. DOES THE 90 PART OF THE 22 INCLUDE THE TWO PEACE
CORP VOLUNTEERS OR WHAT IS THE COUNT NOW? I AM NOT TOO
CLEAR ON THAT.

A. ALL RIGHT.

THE 90 THAT I HAVE JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT, INCLUDING THE
82 BELONGING ,O THE INGA-SHABA, AS I UNDERSTAND IT,
ARE SEPARATE FROM THE OTHER AMERICANS.

Q. WHAT ARE THEY BUILDING?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN; SEPARATE FROM THE OTHER
AMERICANS?

A. WELL, WE HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH THIS FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS. THERE ARE EIGHT MISSIONARIES IN KAPANGA. THERE ARE TWO MISSIONARIES IN SANDOA. AS I MENTIONED YESTERDAY, A NUMBER OF MISSIONARIES WERE EVACUATED. FIFTEEN LEFT SANDOA. SIX OF THEM, INCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 16 STATE 059098

TWO PEACE CORP VOLUNTEERS, TWO MISSIONARIES, AND TWO STUDENTS WERE AIRLIFTED TO KOLWEZI ON MARCH 12TH. NOW, THAT IS FROM YESTERDAY'S BRIEFING.

Q. THEY ARE STILL THE LAST?

A. YES.

Q. ARE THERE ANY AMERICANS IN THE HANDS OF WHATEVER THEY ARE, THE INCURSORS?

A. "INCURSORS?"

THERE ARE TWO MISSIONARIES STILL IN SANDOA. THEY ARE THE REMAINING MISSIONARIES BEYOND THOSE THAT HAD LEFT PREVIOUSLY. THAT IS IN AN AREA WHICH IS IN THE HANDS OF THE INVADING FORCE.

Q. DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE THEIR NAMES?

A. I DO NOT.

Q. ARE THE EIGHT IN KAPANGA STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST OR HAVE THEY BEEN FREED OR WHAT?

A. OUR INFORMATION IS THEY ARE STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN KAPANGA. THE MISSIONARY HEADQUARTERS IN KOLWEZI IS MONITORING THE RADIO CONTINUOUSLY.

Q. SO, IT IS A TOTAL OF EIGHT IN KAPANGA AND TWO IN SANDOA?

A. THAT'S RIGHT. YES. EIGHT PLUS TWO. RIGHT.

Q. DOES THE U.S. ACTION HERE REPRESENT AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE ZAIRIAN DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IS HAPPENING?
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 17 STATE 059098

A. WHAT ZAIRIAN DESCRIPTION ARE YOU REFERRING TO?

Q. I AM REFERRING TO THE BASIC DESCRIPTION.

A. I MEAN THERE HAVE BEEN PRESS REPORTS COMING OUT.

THERE ARE FBIS MONITORING REPORTS. THERE ARE UNATTRIBUTED REPORTS. I SIMPLY CAN'T GIVE YOU A BLANKET UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO --

Q. ALL RIGHT.

I AM STILL LOOKING, HAVING TAKEN DUTIFUL NOTES OF EVERYTHING YOU HAVE SAID HERE, OF AN EXPLANATION OF THE UNITED STATES RATIONALIZATION OF WHAT IS HAPPENING TO WHICH IT IS RESPONDING OTHER THAN A REQUEST FROM A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT?

A. WELL, WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEIR REQUEST IS BASED ON LEGITIMATE NEED. WE ARE RESPONDING TO THEIR REQUESTS. I DON'T THINK I NEED SAY MORE THAN THAT.

Q. JUST A SECOND HERE.

ZAIRE, I AM TOLD, HAS MADE REQUESTS TO A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES. IS THE UNITED STATES CONSULTING WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE STATUS OF OUR CONSULTATIONS. ON BACKGROUND, WE UNDERSTAND THAT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR AID FROM ZAIRE AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE REQUESTS ARE BEING MET. I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q. ARE THEY WEST EUROPEAN?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 18 STATE 059098

A. YES. WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THAT IS ON BACKGROUND.

Q. WHICH? CAN YOU SAY?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY PRECISION ON IT. THAT IS ABOUT ALL I HAVE ON IT.

Q. IS IT THE U.S. POSITION THAT IT IS ONLY ACCELERATING THE SUPPLY IN THESE TWO PLANE LOADS OR THAT IT IS TAKING ON ADDITIONAL --

A. I DON'T HAVE AN ACCOUNTING BREAKDOWN AS TO WHAT

EVERY ITEM ON THESE TWO PLANE LOADS REPRESENTS, WHETHER IT IS AN ACCELERATION OF ITEMS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED OR NEW ITEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN ADDED THAT ARE BEING PAID FOR OUT OF AN EXISTING APPROPRIATION. IT IS VERY COMPLICATED TO BREAK DOWN A SHOPPING LIST LIKE THAT AND I DON'T THINK I COULD GET THAT FOR YOU EASILY.

Q. ALL RIGHT.

NOW, YOU HAVE GIVEN US NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER IT IS THE UNITED STATES INTENTION BEYOND THESE TWO PLANE LOADS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ANY ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FROM ZAIRE. HAS SUCH A DECISION YET BEEN REACHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND THE FIRST TWO PLANE LOADS.

Q. IS THERE ANY LIMITATION PLACED ON THE EXTENT OF THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ACTIVIT??

A. I THINK THAT IS VERY HYPOTHETICAL AND I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO LIMITATIONS--THE ABSENCE OR THE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 19 STATE 059098

PRESENCE OF LIMITATIONS. I AM JUST GOING TO STICK WITH WHAT I SAID. WE HAVE ANSWERED THEIR REQUESTS, THE EXISTING REQUESTS, FOR THESE TWO PLANE LOADS AND BEYOND THAT I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE.

Q; ARE WE AWARE OF THE REQUEST TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN WEST EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES?

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON IT BEYOND WESTERN EUROPE.

Q. THAT IS ALL YOU HAVE?

A. THAT IS ALL I HAVE, YES, ON THAT.

Q. HAVE WE HAD CONSULTATION WITH OUR NATO ALLIES THAT WE SHOULD GET INTO THIS TOGETHER?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY INDICATION OF CONSULTATION. I CAN ONLY PRESUME THAT WE TALK ABOUT SUCH THINGS IN THE COURSE OF OUR DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATION. BUT, I HAVE NO PRECISION ON HOW OR WHEN IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE.
YES.

Q. CAN YOU TAKE THIS QUESTION IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER IT?

AS WAS SAID EARLIER, THE ZAIRIAN RADIO HAS BROADCAST NOW AT LEAST TWO MESSAGES, TWO REPORTS, THAT I HAVE SEEN IN WHICH IT IS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD THE AMBASSADORS THAT THE MERCENARIES WERE LED BY OTHER MERCENARIES FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN, OBVIOUSLY THE CUBANS.

IS THIS A FACTOR -- WHETHER YOU CAN CONFIRM IT OR
NOT -- IS THIS A FACTOR IN THE DECISION TO MEET
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 20 STATE 059098

THEIR REQUESTS SO QUICKLY?

A. I AM NOT PRIVY TO THE REASONING THAT GOES INTO
THE DECISIONS REACHED WITH REGARD TO THIS SUPPLY OF
SPARE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT.

Q. THAT IS WHY HE IS ASKING YOU TO TAKE THE
QUESTION.

Q. THAT IS WHY I AM ASKING YOU TO TAKE THE QUESTION.

A. THANK YOU. I WILL LOOK INTO IT.

Q. I MEAN, I RAISED THE CUBAN QUESTION BECAUSE
OBVIOUSLY THE SECRETARY, WHEN HE WAS ASKED AT HIS
PRESS CONFERENCES ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN FORCES
IN ANGOLA AS RELATING TO ANY AMERICAN INITIATIVES
TOWARDS CUBA, HAS CONSTANTLY SAID THAT'S A QUESTION
FOR THE AFRICANS TO DEAL WITH. AND THE QUESTION IS,
ARE WE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN
TROOPS, OR CUBAN -- EVEN A FEW LEADERS BEING INVOLVED
IN THIS THING?

A. YOU KNOW, I THINK, GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE SITUATION
IN OUR REPORTING ON THE WHOLE MILITARY SITUATION DOWN
IN OUR REPORTING ON THE WHOLE MILITARY SITUATION DOWN
THERE, I AM NOT GOING TO EXPRESS CONCERN OR HAZARD
ANY KIND OF OPINION ON THAT.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT CONSULTATION WITH
CONGRESS?

A. THERE HAS BEEN CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WITH WHOM?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 21 STATE 059098

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GET INTO DETAIL ON
THAT, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THERE HAS BEEN CONSULTATION
WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER.

Q. HAS THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE TOLD THE UNITED STATES
THAT THERE ARE CUBANS INVOLVED?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE059098
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/C:TRBUCHANAN:
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770091-0417
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703111/baaaevll.tel
Line Count: 817
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1ea401b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 15
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2964888
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - MARCH 15, 1977
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, MASS, AO, CG, US
To: ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS INFO LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1ea401b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009